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### A KING WHO IS UP TO DATE

Alfonso of Spain Is Turning Out  
to Be Well Worth  
While.

MADRID, March 30.—A complete examination of the many details of the daily life of King Alfonso XIII. of Spain would be well-nigh impossible. All the world is aware of his tireless energy and activity, and, although a portion of the Spanish press recently, with some considerable bitterness, censured his Majesty's love of sport, the monarch does not by any means neglect the affairs of state. Very progressive, he earnestly strives to promote the advancement and well-being of the land over which he rules.

Don Alfonso is usually dressed at 7:30 a. m. and ready to peruse the morning papers, go through his mail and attend to important despatches.

At about 9 o'clock the early breakfast is served, the King always taking his meal in private with the other members of the royal family. This invariably consists of cafe au lait, soft boiled eggs, chicken, either cold or grilled, and fruit.

After this the Minister on duty for the day is received and every Thursday there is a Cabinet council presided over by the King. A great deal of correspondence has to be answered. The humble petition of the poor man receives the same attention at the hands of Don Alfonso as does one from his more fortunate brother.

Luncheon is served at 1:30. "I have been in attendance on the King for the past two years," a gentleman of the court said the other day, "and in that time I have hardly ever known him to be able to sit down punctually to the meal—so many and overwhelming are his occupations and engage-



KINGS OF SPAIN AND PORTUGAL.

ments it is usually near 3 o'clock before the King is able to take his lunch."

A short interval in the afternoon is devoted by Don Alfonso to his own amusement, either playing golf or tennis in the Casa de Campo or taking an automobile drive or a ride on horseback.

"Children's Hour" is Sacred.

Later on comes "the children's hour," and with these precious moments the King allows nothing to interfere. It is the short time in the twenty-four hours he gives himself to spend in private with the Queen and his two infant sons. Then he plays with them as other fathers do with their little ones, and tries to forget the cares and burdens of his exalted station.

Afterward come audiences, civil and military, and then possibly a visit to the opera or to one of the other Madrid theaters, though more frequently, after dinner, which is served at 8:30, the King prefers rest and retirement.

The little Prince of Asturias now nearly two years old, is a fine, sturdy little fellow, with all his mother's looks and he is almost as fair as she. The first words he was taught to say by the King were "papa" and "mama" and "Vive Espana."

The private apartments of the royal palace are furnished with no splendor, but with English comfort, the furnishings and installations having been provided by a famous London firm.

Spain is gradually casting off old tradition and advancing each day farther along the path of modern progress. There is a large field open to foreign capitalists. Many new railroads are projected and new irrigation works, notably the important scheme for the canalization of the River Manzanares and the drainage of the Madrid subsoil. A new Spain is in process of birth under the wise and enlightened rule of Don Alfonso XIII., who, young as he is, has endeared himself to his people. They ardently desire peace and tranquility in which to pursue their avocations and to witness the regeneration of their country, which in the past has had so glorious a history.

The King has a very democratic spirit, and affability and charm of manner are some of his characteristics. He delights in getting away incognito by himself or accompanied only by some friend, and getting in touch with the people, talking to them and learning their needs and wishes.

When in Seville last year, walking one day in the country, he got into conversation with an old farmer on the subject of the land, crops, etc. His Majesty's views, however, did not coincide with those of the old man, who, not knowing him, said rather rudely: "Oh, you swell young gentlemen from Madrid think you know everything."

At that moment the royal automobile

came up and the farmer, realizing to whom he had spoken, immediately uncovered and sank upon one knee, murmuring:

"Pardon me, sire, for my frankness. I had no idea whom I was addressing. I pray your Majesty will overlook my boldness."

Don Alfonso helped the old man to his feet, saying:

"Don't fear; there is no majesty here. We are only brothers. Keep this little souvenir of one with whom you have been conversing," giving him a gold coin and leaving the old fellow overwhelmed.

Thoughts Constantly for Mother.

One of Don Alfonso's most beautiful traits in his love for and devotion to his mother, whom he adores. His tenderest thoughts are ever for her. Indeed, this noble lady is worthy of her son's devotion and of the respect of all his subjects. But for her care and solicitude it is hardly likely that the King could have reached manhood. When he came of age he ordered that all royal honors were invariably to be rendered to Queen Maria Christina.

Her Majesty, whose tastes are very simple, now hardly ever appears at the stately ceremonies of the Spanish court. She prefers her own quiet retirement and the society of her own children, with whom she spends long hours.

HOW FROG CHANGES COLOR.

The chameleon changes his hue with his environment. A short time ago who could venture to point out all the molecular and ethereal vibrations whereby the chain of action is made complete between external environment and peripheral tissue change? Yet Soiland found that the pigmentary changes by virtue of which the frog harmonizes itself more or less with the color of its environment are governed by two sets of nerves, says the New York Medical Record. It results from the action of two reflexes, both originating in the retina; and by his investigations he is able to map out the paths from the brain to the periphery by each of the reflexes. Now let us picture to ourselves the delicacy of this process. First, the green foliage causing vibrations in the ether in certain wave lengths, sets up certain molecular vibrations in the retina, which, translated to the brain, issue forth at the periphery in such form that neither the skin nor the pigment granules in it are changed irreversibly, but certain molecular combinations are made for the time, or certain intramolecular changes of the atoms structure are set up in the pigment for the time by virtue of which a protective color is given to the animal.

He—I have been told that I was handsome. She—When was that? He—Today. She—No; I mean when

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were you handsome?—Come Cuts.  
Nell—Do you think Miss Talkalot really enjoys grand operas? Belle—Oh, yes; fluently.—Philadelphia Record.

"The insurgents have more men than we have." "But they're outgeneral-ed, just the same. Why, we've got two generals to their one."—Louisville Courier-Journal.